REMARKS

Claims 1 – 18 were pending. Claims 1 – 18 were rejected. Claims 1, 6, 9, and 15 are being amended. Claim 8 is being canceled. Claims 1 – 7 and 9 – 18 remain pending. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-18 for present invention are rcjected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Zhang (US pub. 20020105997).

In this regard, firstly, applicant amends claims 1, 6 and 15 by adding the technical features of claim 8 into the claims respectively while claim 8 is deleted.

The applicant holds that as compared with Zhang's patent, amended claims 1, 6 and 15 of the present invention should possess novelty and inventiveness based on the following reasons:

1. In Zhang's patent, the pump light is directed to the laser slab through the slab side surface which is near to the slab end (see Fig. 3A-3B, 4A-4D, 5A-5E, etc.). While in present invention, the pump light is directed to the specific corner surface of the slab. The slab corner surface is formed by cutting the slab at a comer and is used specifically to accept pump light.

2. There is one particular case in Zhang's patent, i.e., in Fig. 7A, an alternative approach to input pump light is shown. In this approach, an optical duct is cut to form a "corner surface", and the pump light is directed to said "corner surface" of said optical duct. While in present invention, the pump light is directed to the specific corner surface of the laser slab. The slab corner surface is formed by cutting the laser slab at corner and is used specifically to accept pump light.

3. In Zhang's patent, the incident angle for this pump light is fixed to Brewster angle. While in present invention, the pump light is guided directly to the prior cut corner surface of the laser slab without any strict restriction to the incident angle of the pump light.

4. In Zhang's patent, the laser slab 2 is made of the YAG crystal and the optical duct 17 is made of the YAG crystal and the optical duct 17 is not included in the laser slab 2, that is, the laser slab does not comprise an un-doped area (see Fig. 15N and paragraph 0202). While in present invention, the laser slab includes a circumambient portion and a central portion, said circumambient portion including an un-doped host area, said center portion including one or more doped host areas, that is, the laser lab comprises an un-doped area.

To sum up, the technical features "the specific corner surface of the laser slab" and "the laser slab includes a circumambient portion and a central portion, said circumambient portion including an un-doped host area" in independent claims 1, 6 and 15 for present invention are not disclosed by Zhang's patent. Further, in Zhang's patent, the incident angle for this pump light is fixed to Brewstcr angle. While in the present invention, the pump light is guided directly to the prior cut corner surface of the laser slab without *any* strict restriction to the incident angle of the pump light.

Therefore, as compared with Zhang's patent, claims 1, 6 and 15 of the present invention possess novelty and inventiveness. Further each of dependent claims also possess novelty and inventiveness at least by virtue of their dependency.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are patentable and request a Notice of Allowance be issued. If the Examiner has any questions or needs any additional information, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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